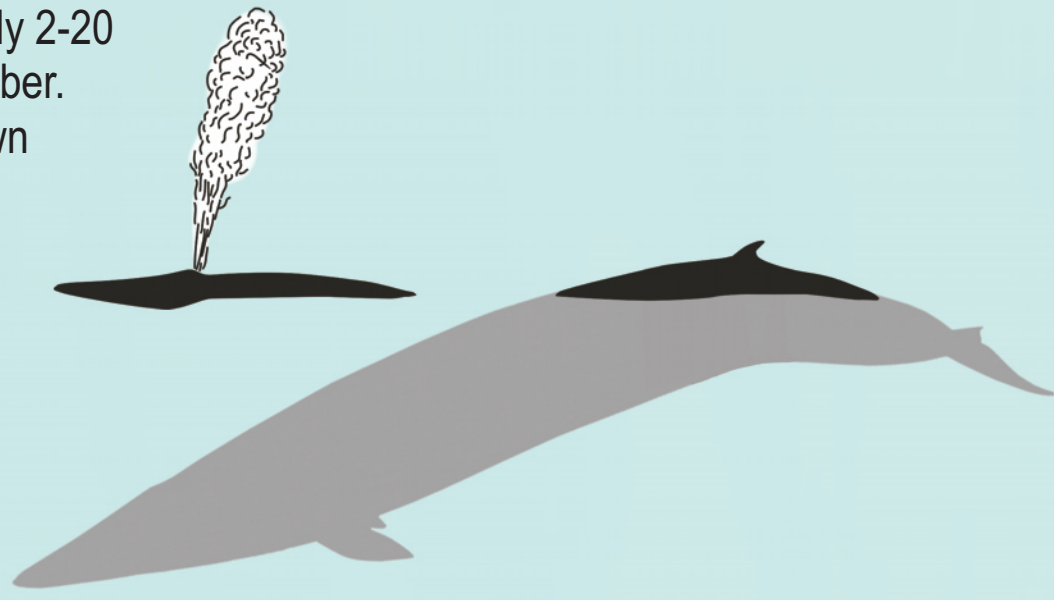


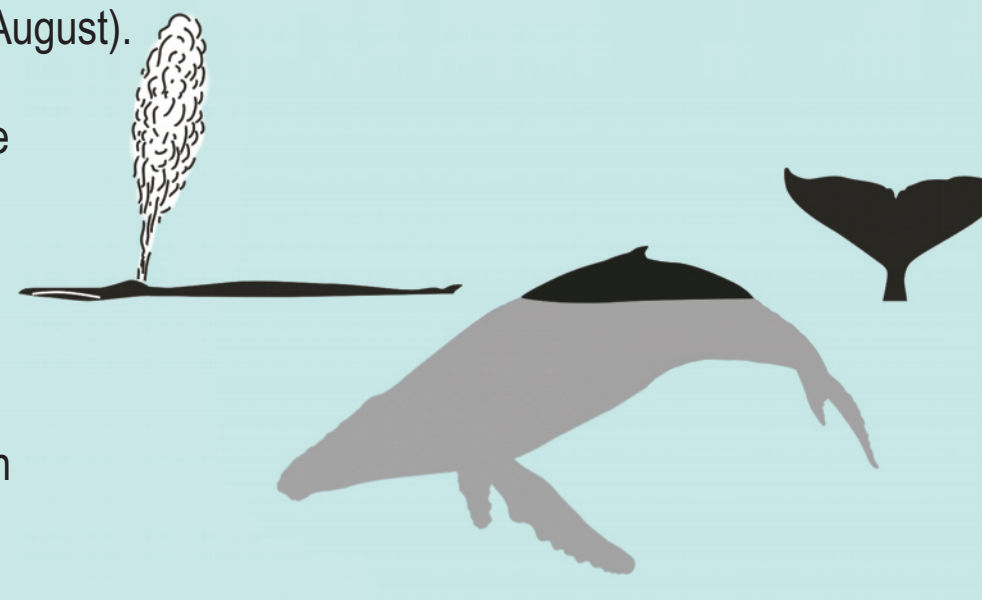
Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus*

Second most common whale seen at Miller Point, typically 2-20 miles off shore. Look toward Marmot Island, May-November.
Size - Male 71 feet and 60 tons, females have been known to reach 80 feet and 70 tons! They are surpassed in size only by the blue whale.
Behavior - Often in groups of 2-5.
Status - Endangered.
Type - Baleen. Eats krill, capelin, herring, lanternfish and other small fish, and squid.



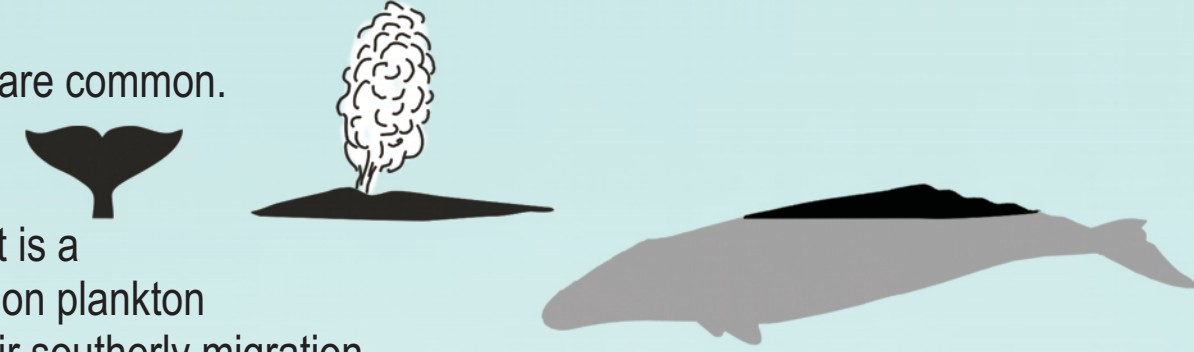
Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Most likely whales to be seen at Miller Point (mid June to late August).
Size - Male 46 feet and 25 tons, female 49 feet and 35 tons.
Behavior - Congregate in groups of 2-12, but larger groups are common. Breaching, spyhopping and lobtailing are common. Vocally diverse. Usually show flukes when "sounding." They often come so close to shore you can hear them.
Status - Endangered. This slow swimmer was heavily hunted at one time.
Type - Baleen. Eats euphausiids and small schooling fish, such as sardines and capelin.



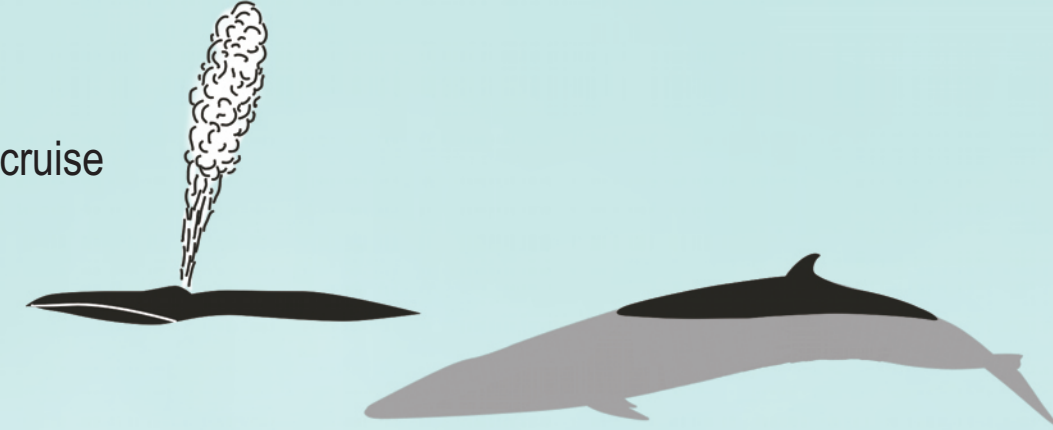
Gray Whale *Eschrichtius robustus*

Usually seen during migration (April/May), 6-15 miles straight off shore.
Size - Male 39 feet, female 46 feet and 33 tons.
Behavior - Group size 2-3. Breaching and lobtailing are common.
Status - Formerly endangered. Recently considered stable.
Type - Baleen. The only baleen whale seen here that is a dredger; they strain the bottom muck. May also feed on plankton and fish near shore. They evidently don't feed on their southerly migration.



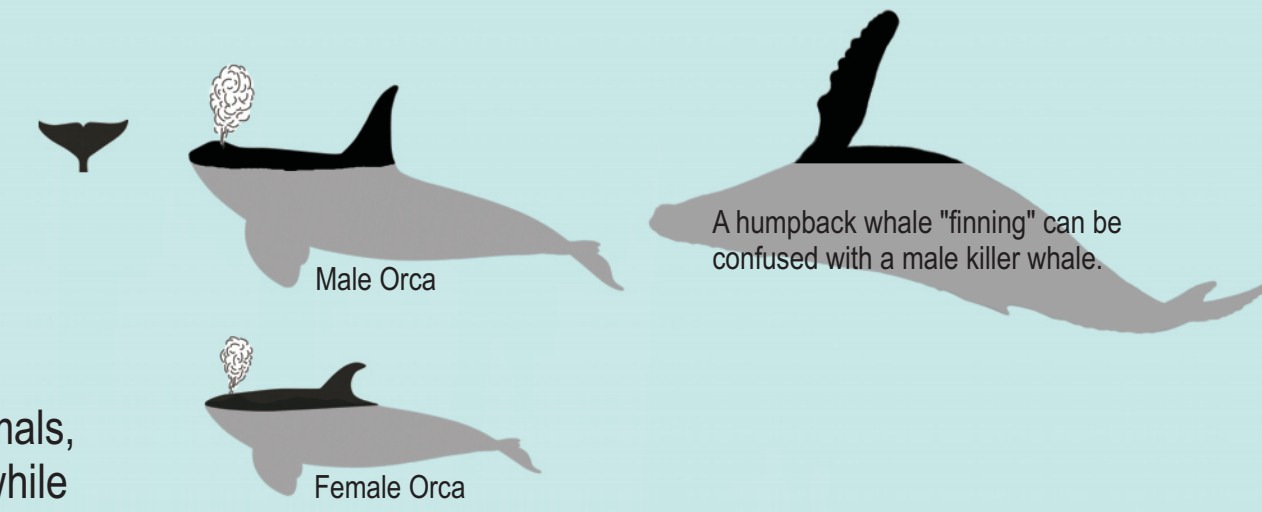
Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis*

Rarely seen at Miller Point. Easily confused with fin whales.
Size - Male 46 feet and 14 tons, female 49 feet and 17 tons.
Behavior - Group size 2-4. Fastest swimming baleen whale. They cruise at 23 knots but have been clocked at 30 knots for short distances.
Status - Endangered.
Type - Baleen. Eats 1 ton daily, including: crustaceans (mainly copepods but also amphipods and euphausiids), a wide variety of schooling fish, and squid.



Killer Whale (Orca) *Orcinus orca*

Occasionally seen here any time of year, usually in pods (groups) of 2-4. They often pass through the town's harbor.
Size - Male 26 feet and 8 tons, female 23 feet and 4 tons.
Behavior - Pod size 3-40 with groups of 150 or more sometimes sighted. Breaching, porpoising, spyhopping and lobtailing are common. They can swim at speeds of 25 knots or more and are cooperative hunters. Most populations are mobile.
Status - Stable.
Type - Toothed. As a group, orcas may eat marine mammals, birds, fish and squid. Some prey primarily on mammals while others eat mostly fish.



Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Rarely seen but sometimes present at Miller Point.
Size - Male 26 feet and 6 tons, female 28 feet and 8 tons.
Behavior - Solitary or groups of 2-3. May breach.
Status - Stable.
Type - Baleen. Preys on schooling fish and zooplankton. Smallest baleen whale.



Marine MAMMALS of Miller Point



Steller Sea Lion
Eumetopias jubatus

Humpback Whale
Megaptera novaeangliae

Dall Porpoise
Phocoenoides dalli

Harbor Porpoise
Phocoena phocoena

Human
Homo sapien

Killer Whale (Orca)
Orcinus orca

Minke Whale
Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Sei Whale
Balaenoptera borealis

Gray Whale
Eschrichtius robustus

Fin Whale
Balaenoptera physalus

All whales are of the order Cetacea, of which there are two distinct suborders, baleen whales (Mysticeti) and toothed whales (Odontoceti).

Baleen whales filter food through a series of fringed plates that hang down from the roof of their mouths, much like a comb. Most of the baleen whales seen here have longitudinal grooves that expand as they take in large amounts of water and food. They contract their throat, push their tongue up and force the water out, which traps the tiny prey in the fringes of the baleen. The gray whale is different as it is a bottom feeder. Baleen whales may use vocalizations to manipulate their prey, but there is no evidence they use echo-location to actually locate their prey.

Toothed whales can catch, hold and tear, but not chew, a variety of larger prey. Scientists believe toothed whales use echo-location to "see" what, how big, how far away, what direction and how fast an object is moving.